



## MONTANA SCHOOL *for the* Deaf & Blind

giving kids the building blocks to independence

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[www.msdb.mt.gov](http://www.msdb.mt.gov)

Winter 2006

### MSDB Outreach Deaf and Hard of Hearing



#### Statistics on Outreach Services to Deaf and Hard of Hearing 2005

- Deaf /Hard or Hearing Children Served: 116
- Families Served by Family Advisors in the Home: 28
- Summer Skills Camp for Deaf/Hard of Hearing: 24
- Family Learning Weekend Deaf/Hard of Hearing: 187
- Trainings by MSDB Outreach D/HH and Blind: 69
- People attending these trainings: 1,498

MSDB OUTREACH CONSULTANTS ARE REALLY OUT THERE!

#### Did you know?

Pre-teaching classroom vocabulary is one of the top ten recurring themes of a successfully mainstreamed deaf or hard of hearing student. This may be listed in the student's IEP.

#### 3R Transition Training in Montana

By Sarah Eyer, Outreach Consultant

In November 2005, MSDB in conjunction with the National Center on Deafness (NCOD) and California State University Northridge (CSUN) sponsored a 3 day training regarding the **Roles, Rights and Responsibilities** of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) students in post-secondary settings. Twenty-four D/HH students from high schools and colleges around Montana attended this training.

Prior to attending the 3R Training, these 24 students completed 10 lessons on-line and created a power point presentation and letter of advocacy based on what they learned in the lessons. During the training, each student gave their power point presentation and shared their letter with the entire group. They were then provided with feedback and further information regarding their presentation and their rights, roles, and responsibilities as they move into the world of higher education and work.

To learn more about this training visit: <http://3r.csun.edu>

*Understanding hearing loss  
begins with listening.*

#### Save the Date!

**MT Council for Exceptional Children 2006  
Conference on Diverse Abilities** March 22-24 in  
Missoula. For more info visit: [www.mtcec.org](http://www.mtcec.org)

**Sign Language Training** April 7, 8 and 9 in Bozeman for  
rookies to pros. Don't miss it. Visit: [www.seecenter.org](http://www.seecenter.org) for  
more information and to register.

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Learning Weekend** June 2, 3, & 4 at  
MSDB in Great Falls. Registration info will be mailed in  
April. More info at: [www.msdb.mt.gov](http://www.msdb.mt.gov)

**Idaho Special Study Institute** June 19 – 22 in Pocatello,  
Idaho. A regional conference on educating deaf and hard of  
hearing. Scholarships available for MT educators. Contact  
Marilyn Pearson at OPI for more info: [mpearson@mt.gov](mailto:mpearson@mt.gov) or  
444-4428.

**Summer Skills Camp for Deaf/Hard of Hearing** June  
25 – July 1 Free for students ages 8 – 14. For more info visit:  
[www.msdb.mt.gov](http://www.msdb.mt.gov) or Jim Kelly at [jkelly@msdb.mt.gov](mailto:jkelly@msdb.mt.gov)

People who sign –

TALK WITH THEIR HANDS,  
HEAR WITH THEIR EYES,  
AND  
LISTEN WITH THEIR  
HEARTS.



# MSDB Outreach Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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## Listen Baby! 1-3-6

By Sarah Eyer, MS, ED, Outreach Consultant for Montana School for the Deaf and Blind and parent of a deaf child

**Can you name the most common birth anomaly?** Approximately 3 out of 1000 babies are born with a hearing loss. The frequency of hearing loss is many times higher than the combined incidence of many other conditions for which we screen newborns such as: cystic fibrosis, hypothyroidism, hemoglobinopathy, and phenylketonuria. In fact, there are more babies born with hearing loss than all of these other conditions combined. Among these babies born with hearing loss, 20% will have a profound loss. These children are unable to hear speech sounds and might not even hear a lawnmower a few feet away. Children with moderate and severe losses will require hearing aids and appropriate professional assistance to develop speech and language. Hearing loss may develop after birth in up to 3% more children due to other causes. In about 50% of all newborns born with hearing loss, the cause is unknown or unidentifiable. Early intervention is the key to a child's future success. Even a mild hearing loss can have devastating effects.

### **A child is never too young to have a hearing test.**

Despite the frequency of hearing loss in children, many pediatric professionals are unaware of the advances in hearing testing, technology, and the many communication options available to children who are deaf and hard of hearing.

### **Identify them early and get involved! 1-3-6 means: Test by one month – Identify by 3 months – Have interventions in place by 6 months.**

Hearing can be screened on the day of birth. The most critical stage of language development occurs before 6 months of age. If interventions do not occur before 6 months, the child can have permanently impaired speech and language. Early diagnosis can dramatically alter outcomes in children w/ hearing loss. The sooner a child's hearing loss is diagnosed, the sooner the child can be fitted with hearing aids and enrolled in an early intervention program. Early-identified children develop significantly better vocabulary and verbal reasoning skills regardless of their amount of hearing, socioeconomic level and other variables. The most successful children also have high levels of family involvement.

Universal hearing screening is the best way to identify hearing loss early, but it's not enough since hearing loss can develop months or years after birth.

- A child should be tested immediately if a parent suspects a hearing loss.
- If there are risk factors such as family history or recurrent ear infections, the child should be tested even if there are no other obvious symptoms.
- If there is a question about the results of initial testing, additional tests should be scheduled.

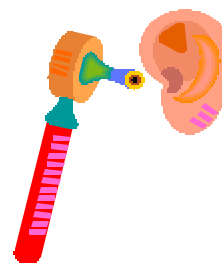
When you suspect a hearing loss: Immediately consult a pediatric audiologist for more thorough testing. If diagnosed: Fit with hearing aids ASAP and begin habilitative intervention!! This is URGENT since every day missed is a day that language acquisition is affected.

### **Missed developmental milestones**

- 6- 12 months: Babbles, gestures to communicate, knows his or her name
- 12 -18 months: Strings sounds together, says first words
- 18 – 36 months: Says short sentences, sings songs

Undiagnosed hearing loss is a barrier to socialization and can result in:

- ⊗ a poor relationship with parents if the baby appears unresponsive
- ⊗ social problems with peers
- ⊗ long-term damage if hearing loss is diagnosed late



**Parental concern is a very important indicator that a problem is present.**

Source: Mehl AL and Thomson V. Newborn Hearing Screening: The Great Omission. *Pediatrics*. 1998; 101:E4  
Yoshinaga-Itano C, et al. Language of early- and later-identified children with hearing loss. *Pediatrics*. 1998;102:1161-1171.

Sininger YS, Doyle KJ. The case of early identification of hearing loss in children. *Ped Clin N Amer*. February 1999;1-14.

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## 5 Questions With.....

**Tim,**

a 6 year-old deaf child from Montana City

1. Q - What did you ask Santa to bring you for Christmas?

A - **A bike and video games.**

2. Q - How did you talk to Santa?

A - **I saw Santa on the T.V. at MTAP\* and he signed to me and I signed back. Santa was at the North Pole.**

3. Q - What was your favorite Christmas present?

A - **A Magnadoodle, because people can write the words for the signs they use. I like to see how the words look.**

4. Q - Who do you sign with?

A - **My brother Rahkie, my sisters Kate and Val, my Mom, my Dad a little bit, people at Sign Club, my friend Jagger, my interpreter Vicki, 2 friends at Montana City School and my friends and teachers at MSDB.**

5. Q -What do you think is funny?

A - **When I share my food with the dog and the dog gets in trouble.**

\*MTAP is the Montana Telecommunication Access Program which provides phones to deaf and hard of hearing people. They set up the "Signing Santa" opportunity for deaf kids to sign with Santa. More information: 1-866-735-2968 or [info@montanarelay.org](mailto:info@montanarelay.org).

## ***GREAT RESOURCES***

**Visit: [www.aslpro.com](http://www.aslpro.com)**

This website will help you learn or improve your sign language. It has vocabulary building exercises for receptive and expressive signing, games, and a sign dictionary. Check it out.

**PLUK Library: [plukinfo@pluk.org](mailto:plukinfo@pluk.org) or call 1-800 222-7585**

Check out their wonderful materials for loan.

Featured in their Dec. 2005/ Jan. 2006 Newsletter:

Say It With A Sign – Early Communication Through Basic Sign Language (For Infants, Babies, Toddlers, and Parents too!)

This DVD is a great tool to use with your child to help them learn to communicate through sign language. It uses a very simple but effective combination of ASL signs (with a few modifications for tiny hands), spoken words, written text, still images, animation, live video, and sound effects. The colorful images and delightful soundtrack are edited together in a repetitive but visually interesting format that will captivate and hold your baby's attention while they learn to sign along.

### **Order "Odyssey Magazine"**

A great magazine with information about deaf education.

Receive it FREE three times a year by calling 1-800-526-9105. Tell them you would like to be placed on the mailing list for "Odyssey Magazine". Also, "The World Around You" magazine for deaf and hard of hearing teens has the same deal. When you call, tell them you would like to receive "The World Around You" magazine also. Both magazines come 3 times a year and are FREE, FREE, FREE!

### **Buy the "Clip and Create Software Program"**

This CD allows you to create your own sign language materials, make letterhead, banners, posters, cards, postcards, and labels. Over 3,500 sign clipart pictures. Customize crossword puzzles, fingerspelling scrambles, ABC order worksheets, and word finds. Play four ASL word games. Cost is \$34.95. Order from: Institute for Disabilities Research and Training, Inc. 301-942-4326 or [sales@idrt.com](mailto:sales@idrt.com). More info and other great products can be found at: [www.idrt.com](http://www.idrt.com)

### **Turn the Captions on your TV and Enroll in the Captioned Media Program**

Call 1-800-237-6213 or visit: [www.cfv.org](http://www.cfv.org) to begin receiving FREE movies. Great for classrooms or use at home.

Also, be sure and turn the captions on your TV set when watching TV or DVDs. Research shows it helps all kids be better readers and English as Second Language learners too. Go to Menu; then Captions and select "CC1". If you have problems...ask a kid. :)

**FROM:** Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind  
3911 Central Avenue  
Great Falls, MT 59405

**TO:**

Winter 2006

## Successful Students Who Are Deaf in General Education Settings

### Top Ten Recurring Themes

- 1) Family Involvement
- 2) Self-determination/Motivation
- 3) Involvement in Extracurricular Activities
- 4) Social Skills/Friendships
- 5) Self-advocacy Skills
- 6) Collaboration Among Service Providers
- 7) Pre-teach/Post-teach Content and Vocabulary Being Learned in the Regular Classroom
- 8) Early Identification and Early Intervention
- 9) Good Reading Skills
- 10) High Expectations

Identified by John Luckner and Sheryl Muir, in *American Annals of the Deaf*, December 2001.



## SAVE THESE SITES TO YOUR FAVORITES:

[www.opi.state.mt.us](http://www.opi.state.mt.us) – This site connects you to the state Office of Public Instruction and has links to about anywhere else you want to go including PLUK, MSDB, CEC, you name it.

[www.msdb.mt.gov](http://www.msdb.mt.gov) MSDB's site has information on activities, school calendar, student photos, referral information and more. It's all there.

**Your local school!** Keep informed by checking out your child's school website. Most provide access to grades and your child's progress, not to mention vacation dates, activities and all the stuff you child forgets to mention until 9:00 p.m. the night before.

[www.pluk.org](http://www.pluk.org) – Connect to Parents Let's Unite for Kids to learn about trainings, materials, resources and supports for educating and parenting children with special needs.

[www.ajokeaday.com](http://www.ajokeaday.com) If you are reading a newsletter on deaf and hard of hearing kids you obviously need to cultivate your sense of humor!

### Did you know?

**Use of captioned media, preferential seating, and frequently checking for comprehension are recommended accommodations for students with hearing loss and should be considered for inclusion in the student's IEP.**

This Outreach Newsletter will be printed 4 times a year:

- Fall – Welcome Back to School
- Winter – Happenings and Support
- Spring – More News You Need
- Summer – Ideas for Surviving Summer

Any comments or submissions should be submitted to:

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